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**DALLAS COUPLE CONVICTED IN TAX-EVASION SCHEME**

***Daniel A. Fisher's Tax Scheme Involved More Than \$10 Million in Intended and Actual Losses***

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that a following a two-week trial in Dallas before the Honorable Jerry Buchmeyer, United States Senior District Judge, a federal jury convicted Dallas resident, Daniel A. Fisher, on all 37 counts of a superseding indictment that charged him with 34 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation and presentation of false and fraudulent tax returns, one count of bank fraud, one count of making a false statement in connection with a loan application and one count of making a false declaration before a court. Judge Buchmeyer ordered Fisher detained, pending a bond hearing scheduled for next week. Sentencing is set for March 18, 2005. He faces a maximum statutory sentence of 167 years imprisonment and a \$5.65 million fine.

In July a federal grand jury in Dallas returned the 37-count superseding indictment against Daniel A. Fisher and his wife, Brenda Meyers-Fisher, a/k/a Brenda Fisher. Brenda Fisher was charged in that indictment with one count of bank fraud and one count of making a false statement in connection with a loan application. She pled guilty shortly thereafter to making a false statement in connection with a loan application. Brenda Fisher, who testified at trial, is scheduled to be sentenced early next year and faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment and a \$1 million fine.

Daniel Fisher was involved in a scheme to defraud the government through a tax scheme he promoted to a number of people living in the Dallas area and elsewhere, resulting in millions of dollars of fraudulent tax refund claims by the defendant's customers. Thirty-four counts of the indictment charged Fisher with preparing and aiding in the preparation of fraudulent income tax returns on behalf of five different tax payers. The tax returns were fraudulent because they involved

the creation of sham business entities and transactions aimed at eliminating taxes owed by the tax payers. Count 35 of the indictment charged Fisher with committing perjury during a civil hearing related to his tax activities where he testified under oath that he did not have any tax clients and did not perform any work for these clients. The false statement and bank fraud counts related to Fisher and his wife making false statements to Wells Fargo Bank and attempting to defraud that bank in connection with their application for a \$300,000 revolving credit line at the bank.

The government presented evidence at trial that throughout the tax scheme ranging from 2001 through 2003, Fisher convinced many successful, prominent individuals around Dallas/Fort Worth and other cities across the United States, including several business owners, a doctor, a former Chief Information Officer for major corporations and a successful real estate agent, that he could set up business entities for them and eliminate their tax liabilities. Fisher specialized in targeting wealthy married couples and convincing them to “restructure” their tax returns

Testimony showed that Fisher told husbands and wives that they were paying too much in federal income tax and needed to restructure their lives. Fisher personally met with the couples on several occasions to explain his confusing plan to them. The government provided evidence that Fisher’s scheme involved creating and backdating sham partnerships for his tax clients. Under these sham business entities, the defendant fabricated transactions and “intangible assets” to create “deductions” used to wash out the couples’ income and create a loss in the partnership. By using this fraudulent tax scheme, Fisher, in one example, turned a married couple that once earned \$250,000 a year and paid \$70,000 in tax, into a couple that operated at a loss and claimed a refund from the government for all the tax they had paid the previous year.

According to testimony during trial, Fisher’s scheme was one of the most complex tax fraud schemes ever encountered. During the trial, the government presented 25 witnesses, including eight victim tax payers and a number of individuals, including a Certified Public Accountant and a tax lawyer, who confronted the defendant about the lawfulness of the tax structure.

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), Dallas Field Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael R. Gill and Felicia Moncrief.

